

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace paragraph [0055] at page 15 with the following replacement paragraph:

---[0055] FIG. 13 shows an example method of validating a qualification state transition based on restricted signing. In step 1300, the status is set to success. In step 1302, it is determined whether the transition from the current state to the requested qualification state requires an electronic signature. If not, control flows to step ~~1304~~1309, where the status is returned. Otherwise, if it requires an electronic signature, control flows to step 1306. In step 1306, it is determined whether any transition to the qualification state that is the restricted state requires an electronic signature. If not, control flows to step ~~1304~~1309. Otherwise, control flows to step 1308. In step 1308, it is determined whether the electronic signatures are different for the current transition and the previous transition to the restricted qualification state. If so, control flows to step ~~1304~~1309. If not, control flows to step 1310, where the status is set to indicate that the qualification state transition cannot be performed and, then, control flows to step ~~1304~~1309.---